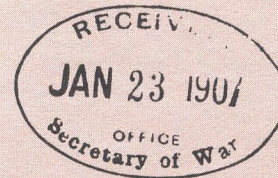


THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
Personal.

*See Confidential*



January 22, 1907.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

In reference to Magoon's two letters of the 13th and 16th, which are returned herewith, I need hardly add to what I said this morning. There can be no talk of a protectorate by us. Our business is to establish peace and order on a satisfactory basis, start the new government, and then leave the Island; the Cuban Government taking the reins into its own hands; tho of course it might be advisable for some little time that some of our troops should stay in the Islands to steady things. I will not even consider the plan of a protectorate, or any plan which would imply our breaking our explicit promise because of which we were able to prevent a war of devastation last fall. The good faith of the United States is a mighty valuable asset and must not be impaired.

Sincerely yours,

*Theodore Roosevelt*

Hon. Wm. H. Taft,  
Secretary of War.

**Original Letter of President Theodore Roosevelt to Secretary of War William Howard Taft  
in Regard to Keeping Our Promise to Get Out of Cuba**

Keeping faith with countries and peoples over whom the United States has acquired control has been a cardinal principle of American policy. After the Spanish-American War and in 1907, when we were again in Cuba, many urged that we annex the island. President Theodore Roosevelt emphatically rejected such proposals, as his signed letter of January 22, 1907, to Secretary of War William Howard Taft shows.

Lent to The Freedom Train by the National Archives